



Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Rural Economies Workgroup Report

January 26, 2015

To: Jon Laria, Chairman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

From: Greg Bowen, Rural Economies Workgroup Chair

Subj: Status Report on Rural Economies Workgroup Activities

Date: January 20, 2015

The Rural Economies Workgroup met twice since the November Growth Commission meeting and has continued to refine its organizational structure. The Workgroup has determined that five subcommittees would be best to address the diverse set of issues confronting rural Maryland. These subcommittees are:

- Sustainable Food and Food Production
- Sustainable Forestry
- Land Preservation and Protected Open Space
- Rural Development and Recreation
- Sustainable Fisheries

An initial set of strategies to investigate (that follows) has been drafted for consideration and discussion by the subcommittees. These strategies are subject to further refinement, revision and prioritization by the subcommittees and will be discussed by the full Workgroup once a subcommittee has developed findings and recommendations. Recruitment to the subcommittees and scheduling the initial subcommittee meetings is underway.

A summary report of the Workgroup's January 5, 2015 meeting is attached to this report.

The next meeting of the full Workgroup is March 13. Prior to this meeting, all the subcommittees are supposed to have scheduled meetings to go over the initial set of strategies, refine them and prioritize the next steps for each subcommittee.

# **Rural Economies Workgroup**

## **Subcommittees and Initial Strategy Investigation**

### **Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Members (16): Greg Bowen, Elliott Campbell, Debra Celnik, Dan Colhoun, Nevin Dawson, Colby Ferguson, Howard Freedlander, Kurt Fuchs, Heather Gramm, Stephen McHenry, Paul Kazyak, Joanna Kille, Jim Mullin, Amy Owsley, John Papagni, Mark Powell

Subcommittee Conveners/Facilitators: Dan Rosen (MDP), Laverne Gray (MDP) and Joe Tassone (MDP)

#### Initial Strategies to Investigate

1. Identify opportunities to streamline and improve the regulations that govern the production, processing, and distribution (including sales) and waste management of food products in Maryland.
2. Identify national and regional trends that are affecting the agriculture industries in Maryland.
3. Identify new opportunities and enhancements to value-added food processing sectors.
4. Identify opportunities to improve local food distribution and sales through the promotion of food hubs and other regional distribution systems that allow farmers to better access institutional and retail markets.
5. Identify a sustainable energy strategy for agriculture

### **Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee.**

Subcommittee Members (7): Greg Bowen, Elliott Campbell, Vanessa Finney (suggested to be invited), Heather Gramm, Stephen McHenry, Dan Rider, Robert Tjaden

Subcommittee Conveners/Facilitators: Jason Dubow (MDP) and Elliott Campbell (DNR)

#### Initial Strategies to Investigate

1. Identify opportunities to streamline and improve the regulations that govern the production, processing, and distribution (including sales) and waste management of wood products in Maryland.
2. Identify national and regional trends that are affecting the forestry industries in Maryland.
3. Identify a sustainable forestry industry for Maryland.
4. Identify a sustainable energy strategy for forestry

### **Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee.**

Subcommittee Members (13): Greg Bowen, Diane Chasse, Dan Colhoun, Colby Ferguson, Howard Freedlander, Ann Jones, Les Knapp, Stephen McHenry, Jim Mullin, Amy Owsley, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Emily Wilson, Duane Yoder

Subcommittee Conveners/Facilitators: Dan Rosen (MDP) and Joe Tassone (MDP)

#### Initial Strategies to Investigate

1. Identify a new, increased Land Preservation goal for Maryland
2. Identify opportunities to enhance the Critical Farms Program
3. Identify opportunities to promote Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program
4. Identify new opportunities Protect Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Open Spaces
5. Identify a sustainable agricultural footprint for Maryland.

### **Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee.**

Subcommittee Members (10): Elliott Campbell, Diane Chasse, Colby Ferguson, Ann Jones, Les Knapp, Charlotte Lawson-Davis, Jim Mullin, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, David Umling, Duane Yoder

Subcommittee Conveners/Facilitators: Chuck Boyd (MDP) and Elliott Campbell (DNR)

#### Initial Strategies to Investigate

1. Identify new opportunities and enhancements to Strengthen Rural Communities
2. Identify a sustainable energy strategy for rural communities
3. Identify a sustainable rural recreation industry for Maryland.

### **Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee.**

Subcommittee Members (3): Robert Brown (suggested to be invited), Stephen McHenry, Jim Mullins, Others to be identified/invited

Subcommittee Conveners/Facilitators: Jason Dubow (MDP)

#### Initial Strategies to Investigate

1. Identify a sustainable fisheries industry for Maryland.
2. Identify ways to protect working waterfronts

**Work Plan (To be developed for each Subcommittee and coordinated with the full Workgroup)**

## Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document

<b>Meeting Notes For:</b>		<b>Rural Economies Workgroup</b>
Date and time:		January 5, 2015
Called by: Greg Bowen		Facilitator's Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Greg Bowen, Chuck Boyd, Debra Celnik, Daniel Colhoun, Jason Dubow, Kurt Fuchs, Joanna Kille, Les Knapp, Charlotte Lawson Davis, Stephen McHenry, Jim Mullin, Amy Owsley, John Papagni, Mark Powell, Daniel Rider, Dan Rosen, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Donald Shell, Dave Umling, Duane Yoder	
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd	
<b>Agenda and Notes:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take attendance – 20 members attended in person or by conference call.</li> <li>2. No <b>Notes</b> or <b>Key Actions</b> from last meeting to review.</li> <li>3. Reviewed the proposed five (5) Subcommittees. Recommendation was made to retitle the “Strong Rural Recreation and Communities Subcommittee” to “Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee.” Consensus of Workgroup participants was that Subcommittee categories and titles (as amended) were acceptable.</li> <li>4. Workgroup members reviewed the initial list of participants for the Subcommittees and provided suggested additions.</li> <li>5. Workgroup members reviewed the proposed list of Subcommittee conveners/facilitators. Workgroup members had no objection to the proposed list.</li> <li>6. The Subcommittee Protocols and Reporting Template were reviewed by the Workgroup. No objections or changes were recommended.</li> <li>7. Logistics on the dissemination of Workgroup materials via DropBox was reviewed with the Workgroup and questions were answered.</li> <li>8. The initial set of Subcommittee strategies was introduced as a jumping off point for the Subcommittees to develop. Subcommittees will be asked to revise and refine these strategies, establish priorities and possible timeline for investigation.</li> <li>9. Establishing a regular meeting schedule for the Workgroup was discussed. Having bi-monthly meetings was agreed to, with Subcommittee meetings occurring more often as needed. Friday afternoons was identified as the best time to hold the Workgroup meetings, avoiding conflict with other standing meetings and obligations.</li> <li>10. Next Workgroup meeting is March 13. Initial Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled as soon as possible after the January 5 Workgroup meeting.</li> </ol>		
<b>Key Actions (and who has agreed take on)</b>	Describe action and indicate when action is due	
1. Additional Subcommittee Membership	Each Workgroup member that identified additional members to be invited to a Subcommittee was asked to email the name and contact information to Chuck Boyd. He agreed to invite all suggest participants to the Subcommittees before the next Workgroup meeting.	
2. Scheduling Regular Meetings	Chuck Boyd agreed to coordinate the setting of a bi-monthly meeting schedule on Friday afternoons.	
3. Scheduling Initial Subcommittee Meetings	The facilitators for the Subcommittees would try to schedule a meeting of each Subcommittee as soon as possible before the General Assembly session starts.	
<b>Resource Materials used and draft documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Listing of Subcommittees and Initial Strategies</li> <li>- Draft Workgroup Proposal</li> </ul>	